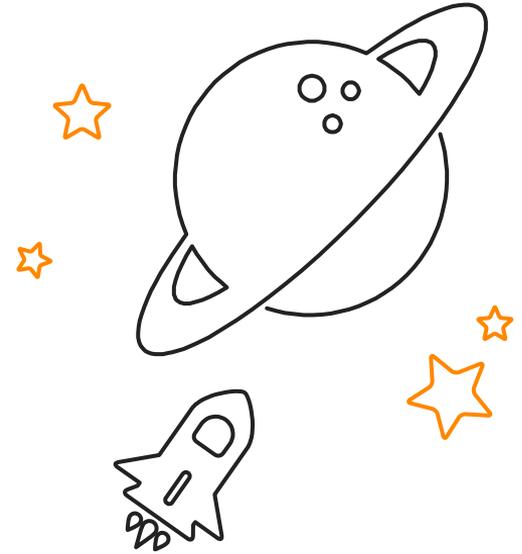


# ACADEMIC WRITING IN ENGLISH: PARAGRAPHS

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# PARAGRAPHS



A paragraph is one or more sentences set apart visually as a group. All of the sentences in a paragraph should focus on one main idea.

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## Paragraph Example

- ▶ A paragraph in a paper on campus littering:
  - ▶ “One reason that the addition of more recycling receptacles will help lessen littering is that putting recyclable materials in those containers will be more convenient. A survey of students on campus reveals that most do not recycle because they feel that there are not enough recycling bins in close proximity to their classrooms. By placing two additional recycling bins on each floor of our classroom buildings, we can ensure that the act of recycling is convenient for everyone.”

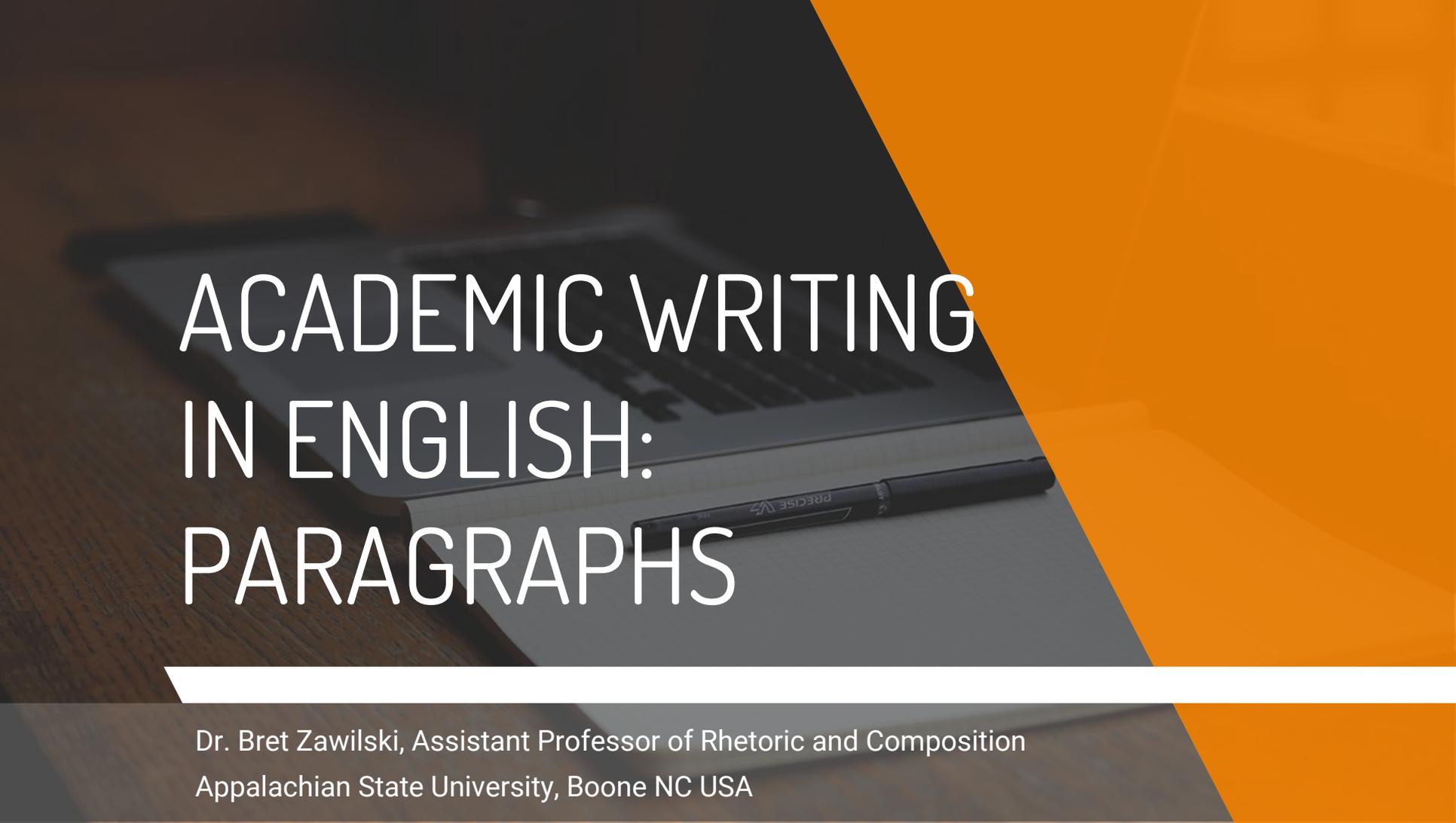
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## Paragraph Guidelines

- ▶ All sentences need to connect to the main idea.
  - ▶ Provide details in support of main idea.
  - ▶ Provide evidence that supports an argument.
  - ▶ Assist your audience anticipate what you will be discussing.

## Supplementary Assignment

- ▶ Revisit the outline you have constructed
  - ▷ Select several main ideas and begin developing paragraphs about them.
- ▶ For each paragraph you construct, ask yourself the following:
  - ▷ What is the topic sentence of each paragraph? Is the main idea clear?
  - ▷ Does the first sentence of each paragraph let readers know what that paragraph is about?
  - ▷ How does each sentence relate to the main idea of the paragraph? Revise or remove any that do not.
  - ▷ Does each paragraph provide sufficient details or evidence related to the main idea?



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